

## UDAF SEEKS RELIEF FOR UTAH FRUIT GROWERS

Salt Lake City, Utah -- The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to secure emergency disaster funding for Utah fruit growers. The funding would help offset the devastating affects of a May freeze that damaged or destroyed much of the 2002 fruit crop in the state. This was the worst freeze since 1972.

The Utah fruit industry generated more than \$40 million to Utah's economy in 2000 in direct and indirect revenue.

"With repeated years of severe drought and record insect populations, and now a killing freeze, Utah's agricultural producers need significant federal financial help," said Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food.

"Just like the businesses and resident who suffered through the Salt Lake tornado of 1999, an agricultural tornado of frost, drought and insects has touched down in Utah's farmland," he added.

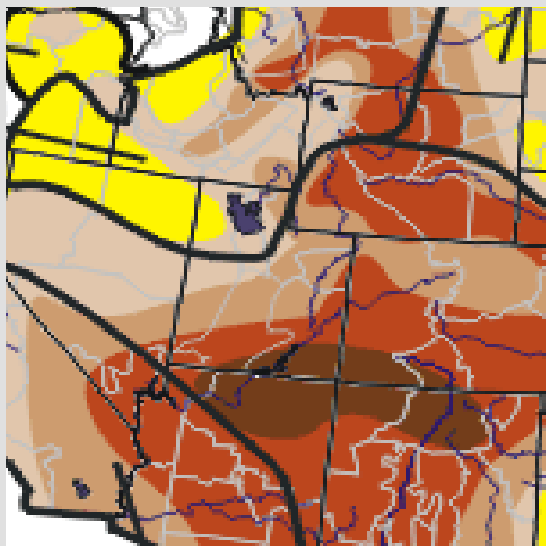
### Utah commodity cash receipts for 2000 (source: USDA)

Cherries	\$9,180,000
Apples	\$4,710,000
Peaches	\$2,700,000
Pears	\$ 245,000
Apricots	\$ 159,000

\$16,994,000 X economic multiplier  
= \$42,000,000.

## UDAF Web Page Offers Drought Help

Visit [www.ag.utah.gov](http://www.ag.utah.gov) to read about water saving tips for both home and farm. The site also offers emergency loan/grant information.



The June 11, USDA drought monitor shows five stages of drought affecting Utah. The darker bands indicate more severe conditions. Southeastern Utah is included in the most severe conditions nationwide.

# UTAH AG NEWS

July 2002

2002

## UDAF AWARDED \$223,000 FOR AG. HOMELAND SECURITY PROTECTION

Salt Lake City – The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) will receive \$223,000 to help bolster food and agricultural homeland security protections. The funds, in the form of grants and cooperative agreements, are part of \$328 million approved by President Bush and the Congress earlier this year to strengthen U.S. Department of Agriculture's homeland security preparedness.

"These grants will help us prevent the accidental or intentional introduction of a foreign animal disease in Utah," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Mike Marshall. "Utah's livestock industry generates more than \$750 million to our economy, and it is vital that we protect it from harm," he added.

The UDAF initiated stepped-up biosecurity procedures for farmers and ranchers last year, in preparation for the Olympics. The additional funds will be used to strengthen and expand efforts already in place.

Farmers and ranchers in Utah and around the country are taking extra measures to limit access to their property to unknown visitors. The UDAF has created and distributed a 10-step informational brochure on how to better protect their herds. The department has also initiated the Utah Cattle Herd Assurance Program (UCHAP) that helps livestock owners create and maintain biosecurity procedures for their herds.

The UDAF will use the funds for animal disease surveillance, animal disease response and plant pest and disease detection.

Additional information about agricultural biosecurity in Utah visit: <http://ag.utah.gov/animal/uchap.html>



### Finalist Manager of the Year

**Animal Industry's Dr. Chris Crnich received the "Governor's Manager of the Year Award" from Lt. Governor Olene Walker during ceremonies at the State Capitol June 17.**

**Dr. Crnich is the manager of the division's meat inspection program. He was recognized for his strong leadership skills while implementing the many industry-wide changes in the meat inspection system.**

**Dr. Crnich also organized an important food safety committee made up of industry and government leaders. The committee's goal is to assure that consumers have a safe and healthy food supply.**

## UDAF Seeks Additional Funds For 2003 Cricket/Hopper Fight

With this year's cricket and grasshopper fight not even over, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) went before the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Subcommittee this week seeking additional funds for next year's fight. An estimated five million acres are expected to be infested in 2003, according to mid-Summer surveys by the UDAF and USDA. This year more than 3.3 million acres are infested with Mormon crickets and grasshoppers in many of the state's 29 counties.

Governor Leavitt added the insect infestation to a statewide disaster declaration dated April 24. Plant Industry Director, Dick Wilson told the committee, "2002 has been a disastrous year for Utah agriculture. Nearly every natural disaster thinkable is assaulting our farmers and ranchers. From drought, to insects, to frost, to high winds, virtually every grower has lost revenue because of the weather or other natural causes this year."

### Highlights of Testimony

- 3.5 million acres currently infested, centered in Beaver, Juab, Millard and Tooele counties.
- 5 million acres expected to be infested in 2003.
- Total UDAF expenses to date for grasshopper/Mormon cricket survey and control are \$241,000.
- State and private acres treated 26,000.
- Total acres treated 98,500.
- Drought conditions causing crickets and grasshoppers to migrate to agricultural and populated areas.
- Crickets are in adult stage and laying eggs.
- As a public safety measure the UDOT applied nearly 10,000 lbs. of bait along the sides of roadways.
- Funding for control in 2003 will require an estimated \$350,000 to



Female Mormon cricket laying eggs in Utah.